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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS : ANDREAS WIECK, ET AL
SERIAL NO. : TO BE ASSIGNED
FILED : HERewith
FOR : PROTECTIVE MATERIAL WITH PUNCHED SHAPED
PARTS
ART UNIT : TO BE ASSIGNED
EXAMINER : TO BE ASSIGNED

February 20, 2002

Hon. Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

SIR:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please add new claims 12 to 17, and amend claims 1, 2 and 4-11 as follows. A marked-up copy of the amended claims is attached.

1. (amended) A protective material with punched shaped parts, obtainable in a converting process for producing single-sidedly or double-sidedly adhesive punched shaped parts, wherein a single-sidedly or double-sidedly adhesive tape is placed on top of the protective material from which punched shaped parts are punched out by a punching tool, wherein

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the protective material comprises a colored polymer backing sheet having a top and a bottom face, the coloring being obtained by means of colorants in the interior of the backing sheet, so as to avoid abrasion on the punching tool.

2. (amended) A protective material with punched shaped parts, obtainable in a converting process for producing single-sidedly or double-sidedly adhesive punched shaped parts, wherein a single-sidedly or double-sidedly adhesive tape is placed atop the protective material from which punched shaped parts are punched out by a punching tool, wherein
the protective material comprises a backing sheet having a polymer backing including a top and a bottom face, and a color layer applied to the top and/or the bottom face of the polymer backing.
3. Not amended
4. (amended) The protective material as claimed in claim 1, wherein
the polymer backing is one of a polyester, polystyrene, polyamide or polyimide.
5. (amended) The protective material as claimed in claim 4, wherein
the polymer backing is polyester having a thickness of from 12 to 150 μm .
6. (amended) The protective material as claimed in claim 4, wherein the polymer backing includes
an anti-adhesive coating on the top and/or the bottom face.
7. (amended) The protective material as claimed in claim 6, wherein
the anti-adhesive coating is one of a silicone-free layer, a low-silicone layer, silicone layer, paraffin layer, Teflon layer or a wax layer.
8. (amended) The protective material as claimed in claim 2, further comprising an anti-adhesive layer applied to the polymer backing and wherein

the color layer is applied on the same side of the protective material facing the adhesive tape.

9. (amended) The protective material as claimed in claim 2, wherein the color layer is applied to the polymer backing at from 0.5 to 20 g/m².
10. (amended) The protective material as claimed in claim 2, wherein the color layer is dyed silicone.
11. (amended) A method for using a polymer backing as a backing sheet in a protective material for a single-sidedly or double-sidedly adhesive tape, wherein the polymer backing has a top and a bottom face and is provided with a full-area color layer on the top or on the bottom face.
12. (new) The method for using the polymer backing of claim 11, wherein the polymer backing is polyester backing.
13. (new) The protective material as claimed in claim 1, wherein the punching tool is a kiss-cut punching tool.
14. (new) The protective material as claimed in claim 5, wherein the polyester backing has a thickness of from about 25 to 75μm.
15. (new) The protective material as claimed in claim 14, wherein the polyester backing has a thickness of from about 36 to 50μm.
16. (new) The protective material as claimed in claim 9, wherein the color layer is applied to the polymer backing at from about 4 to 8 g/m².
17. (new) The protective material as claimed in claim 16, wherein the color layer is applied to the polymer backing at from about 5 to 7 g./m².

REMARKS

The amendments above eliminate multiple dependencies, and further place the claims in better form for U.S. examination.

Early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Marked-up Copy - Amended Claims
Preliminary Amendment

1. (amended) A protective material with punched shaped parts, obtainable in a
converting process for producing single-sidedly or double-sidedly adhesive punched
shaped parts, ~~there being placed atop the protective material~~ wherein a single-sidedly
or double-sidedly adhesive tape is placed on top of the protective material from which
5 punched shaped parts are punched out by ~~means of a punching tools tool~~, in particular
~~by the kiss-cut process~~, wherein
the protective material comprises a colored polymer backing sheet ~~in the form of a~~
~~colored polymer backing possessing essentially~~ having a top and a bottom face, the
coloring being obtained by means of colorants in the interior of the backing sheet, so
10 as to avoid abrasion ~~which do not give rise to any abrasive action on the punching~~
~~tools tool~~.

2. (amended) A protective material with punched shaped parts, obtainable in a
converting process for producing single-sidedly or double-sidedly adhesive punched
15 shaped parts, ~~there being placed atop the protective material~~ wherein a single-sidedly
or double-sidedly adhesive tape is placed atop the protective material from which
punched shaped parts are punched out by ~~means of a punching tools tool~~, in particular
~~by the kiss-cut process~~, wherein
the protective material comprises a backing sheet ~~in the protective material in this case~~
20 ~~is~~ having a polymer backing ~~which has essentially including~~ a top and a bottom face,
~~with~~ and a color layer applied to the top and/or the bottom face of the polymer
backing.

3. The protective material as claimed in claim 2, wherein
25 the color layer is applied over the full area of the backing sheet.

4. (amended) The protective material as claimed in ~~at least one of the preceding claims~~
claim 1, wherein
the polymer backing is one of a backing of polyester, polystyrene, polyamide or
30 polyimide.

Marked-up Copy - Amended Claims
Preliminary Amendment

5. (amended) The protective material as claimed in claim 4, wherein
the ~~polyester polymer~~ backing has is polyester having a thickness of from 12 to 150
 μm , in particular from ~~25 to 75~~ μm , very particularly from ~~36 to 50~~ μm .

5 6. (amended) The protective material as claimed in ~~at least one of the preceding claims,~~
~~comprising claim 4,~~ wherein the polymer backing includes
an ~~antiadhesive~~ anti-adhesive coating on the top and/or the bottom face of the polymer
backing, ~~where appropriate on the color layer applied to the polymer backing.~~

10 7. (amended) The protective material as claimed in ~~at least one of the preceding claims~~
~~claim 6,~~ wherein
the anti-adhesive coating is one of a silicone-free layer, a ~~or low-silicone layers or~~
layer, silicone layer, paraffin layer, Teflon and/or layer or a waxes-wax layer ~~are used~~
as ~~antiadhesive~~ coating.

15 8. (amended) The protective material as claimed in ~~at least one of claims 2 to 7,~~
~~comprising claim 2,~~ further comprising an anti-adhesive layer applied to the polymer
backing and wherein
a ~~the color layer on one side and an antiadhesive layer is applied on the same side, the~~
20 ~~color layer being present in particular on the side of the protective material facing the~~
~~adhesive tape.~~

9. (amended) The protective material as claimed in ~~at least one of claims 2 to 8~~ claim 2,
wherein
25 the color layer is applied to the polymer backing at from 0.5 to 20 g/m^2 , ~~preferably~~
~~from 4 to 8~~ g/m^2 , very preferably from ~~5 to 7~~ g/m^2 .

10. (amended) The protective material as claimed in ~~at least one of claims 2 to 9~~ claim 2,
wherein
30 the color layer is dyed ~~silieones are used as color layer~~ silicone.

Marked-up Copy - Amended Claims
Preliminary Amendment

11. (amended) ~~The use of~~ A method for using a polymer backing, particularly a polyester
~~backing,~~ as a backing sheet in a protective material for a single-sidedly or double-

sidedly adhesive tape, wherein
the polymer backing ~~essentially~~ has a top and a bottom face and is provided with a
5 full-area color layer on the top ~~and/or~~ or on the bottom face.

12. (new) The method for using the polymer backing of claim 11, wherein
the polymer backing is polyester backing.

10 13. (new) The protective material as claimed in claim 1, wherein
the punching tool is a kiss-cut punching tool.

14. (new) The protective material as claimed in claim 5, wherein
the polyester backing has a thickness of from about 25 to 75 μm .

15 15. (new) The protective material as claimed in claim 14, wherein
the polyester backing has a thickness of from about 36 to 50 μm .

16. (new) The protective material as claimed in claim 9, wherein
20 the color layer is applied to the polymer backing at from about 4 to 8 g/m^2 .

17. (new) The protective material as claimed in claim 16, wherein
the color layer is applied to the polymer backing at from about 5 to 7 g/m^2 .